

Equal access to, and equal service in, public accommodations is a right protected by federal, state and local laws.

In accordance with Chapter 11.04.010 of the Lincoln Municipal Code, all persons within the City of Lincoln shall be entitled to a full and equal enjoyment of any place of public accommodation, without discrimination or segregation on the grounds of:

- | | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| * Race | *Color |
| * Sex | * Religion |
| * National Origin | * Ancestry |
| * Disability | * Marital Status |

Every totally or partially blind person shall have the right to be accompanied by a service animal, especially trained for the purpose, in any place of public accommodation without being required to pay an extra charge for the service animal.

The Equal Opportunity Ordinance protects an individual's basic right of fair and equal treatment by the businesses and facilities that are open to the public. In addition to requiring that entrance be accessible and admission be non-discriminatory, the Ordinance also covers service and the right to enjoy any activities that are made available to the public on an equal basis.

Walking into a department store or restaurant and being closely monitored by store personnel, asked for several pieces of identification by a cashier or denied service based on race can be an embarrassing experience. However, it is also a violation of the law.

What Are Some Examples of Public Accommodations?

The following, generally, are considered places of public accommodation:

- C Places of lodging
- C Food and/or drink establishments
- C Places of entertainment
- C Public meeting places
- C Sale and/or rental establishments
- C Public transportation stations
- C Educational institutions
- C Social service establishments
- C Recreation or fitness centers
- C Places of recreation
- C Places of public display

What Types of Places and Facilities Are Not Covered?

- C any establishment that is supported by a particular religion, non-profit organization, or age group
- C a private club or other establishment not open to the public

Are There Limits to a Person's Right to Go to These Places?

Yes. Along with the right to go to public places comes the responsibility to act in a manner that does not infringe upon other persons' rights. In addition, the owner is allowed to establish requirements, such as a dress code, admission fee, and prohibition of concealed weapons, as long as these rules are applied equally to all customers and clients regardless of their belonging to one of the protected categories.

Discrimination in public accommodations can be very subtle. Often people may suspect they have

been discriminated against, but are not sure they can prove it.

The City of Lincoln believes that discrimination is wrong and that it must be eliminated. Therefore, the Lincoln Commission on Human Rights (LCHR) is charged with the mission of eliminating and preventing all forms of illegal discrimination and to assure and foster equal opportunity for all people in the City of Lincoln. LCHR is also the primary City agency that has the responsibility for the remedy of discrimination complaints brought by individuals. Any remedy pursued by LCHR will be based on the enforcement authority of the Equal Opportunities Ordinance, which provides for a fair and impartial process for resolving charges of discrimination. LCHR also provides education and technical assistance in order for people to know and understand their rights and responsibilities.

Filing a Complaint

If you believe you have been discriminated against in a public accommodation setting, you may be able to file a complaint with LCHR, if certain requirements are met:

- C All complaints must have occurred within one year.
- C The entity you wish to file your complaint against must be located within the City limits.
- C Your complaint must state a valid case of discrimination.

LCHR does not process complaints against City, State or Federal agencies. To find out if LCHR can accept a complaint, call 402-441-7624 or 402-441-8398 (TDD).

The Lincoln Commission on Human Rights is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

City of Lincoln
Commission on Human Rights
440 South 8th Street, Suite 101
Lincoln, NE 68508

Voice: (402) 441-7624
TTY: (402) 441-8398
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www.ci.lincoln.ne.us/city/mayor/human

CITY OF LINCOLN COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS



PUBLIC ACCOMMODATIONS COMPLAINT PROCESS



